

Letter from Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel Hubbard Bell, February 8, 1885, with transcript

Alexander Graham Bell to Mabel (Hubbard) Bell. L Stamm Hotel, Wheeling, W. Va., February 8th, 1885. Dear May:

Let me know whether Elsie is pleased with her letter or not. Couldn't Miss Schmitt get her to write a letter to me in Line-writing without tracing. Miss Schmitt could write it for her and then Elsie could copy it.

I had a very comfortable night in the train — slept well and had no irritation. I arrived here about eleven o'clock and took a constitutional of at least five miles. I walked continually till one o'clock and returned just in time for dinner. After dinner the irritation came on although I had eaten very moderately — but being in a hotel instead of the car — I have been able to obtain complete relief and I am now enjoying myself in (don't know how to spell it at the moment so write in line-writing!) on a rocking-chair with my feet cocked up in true American style on another chair and a cigar in mouth. And as I watch the graceful curling of the smoke — my thoughts are coming thick and fast. If I can only speak in Madison as I think now — all will be well.

I leave here tonight about eleven o'clock and reach Chicago in the morning — I think about half-past nine. I shall go directly to the Palmer House where I hope to meet Mr. Wines. If Mr. Wines approves I shall try to have the opportunity of addressing the Directors of the Normal Training School under Col. Parker on my way home. I shall try to induce Mrs. Parker (my old pupil in the school of Oratory) to induce Mr. Parker to induce the Directors — to induce the Superintendent of Public Instruction.

Boy just come with your telegram. You will see from what precedes that your injunction to “walk” was unnecessary. I intend to take good care of myself. I feel the importance of all

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the doctor has said — and I really intend to try to get strong and well. I don't quite intend to go off just yet! Not only do I love my dear little wifie and my sweet babies but I have got work to do — so much work on so many subjects — that I want many more years of life to finish it all.

I think that it may be possible to have Colonel Parker introduce the study of the mechanism of speech into the curriculum of his Normal School and have a small class of selected students study to become articulation teachers for the deaf.

With much love —

Your loving husband, Alec. My address in Madison will be “The Park Hotel”. You better write to me there. AGB